

From: ["Washburn, Ben" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE:GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN.BEN>](mailto:Ben.Washburn@FDA03CBA30C542059E0AF4208DAD96DA-WASHBURN.BEN)
To:
CC:
Date: 5/15/2014 2:58:41 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 5/15/14

OPA Daily Digest for 5/15/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) – Letter – 5/13/14: Constituent concerns about claim for payment from EPA regarding work done at the Madison County Superfund site. Due: 5/21/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.) – Letter – 5/2/14: Constituent concerns about the Strecker Forest/Bliss Ellisville site removal action. Due: 5/16/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo) – 5/13-15/14: Multiple questions on the West Lake site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Bridgeton Councilwoman Linda Eaker (Mo) – 5/15/14: Questions on testing at the BMAC site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 5/6/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

Pitch Weekly, Kansas City – Steve Vockrodt – 5/14/14: Questions about an EPA role in consultations about a proposed single-terminal design at Kansas City International Airport. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Pitch Weekly, Kansas City – Steve Vockrodt – 5/14/14: Questions about environmental enforcement history of the Kansas City International Airport. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

KMOX Radio, St. Louis – Kevin Killeen – 5/14/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch – Blythe Bernhard – 5/15/14: Question about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

KMOV-TV Ch. 4 – Russell Kinsaul – 5/15/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Daily Journal Online - New EPA standards would kill Missouri jobs - 5/15/14 - Nothing kills jobs faster than a Washington regulation. Since my election to Congress last June, I have fought unnecessary and intrusive Washington regulations that are out of step with our rural way of life in Missouri's Eighth Congressional District. Washington wants to regulate everything from how we generate the power we need to run our homes and businesses, to how we are able to use our own land.

http://dailyjournalonline.com/farmington-press/news/opinion/editorial/new-epa-standards-would-kill-missouri-jobs/article_dba75e2d-0622-5337-9500-b3472928ed8b.html

Associated Press - EPA proposes changes to refinery emission rules - 5/15/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has proposed changes to oil refinery rules that would compel operators to monitor benzene emissions, upgrade storage tank emission controls, ensure waste gases are properly destroyed and adopt new emission standards for delayed coking units.

http://wfcourier.com/news/national/epa-proposes-changes-to-refinery-emission-rules/article_4bcfe73d-ee1-5214-80ce-94962b15e0bf.html

Des Moines Register - High-speed rails pitched as way to cut fuel use - 5/15/14 - Illinois Gov. Patrick Quinn wants Iowa leaders to get on the bus when it comes to high-speed passenger rail.

Quinn argued Wednesday at a climate change task force meeting that high-speed rail connecting several Midwest states would boost regional sustainability — improving efficiencies and cutting fuel use and greenhouse gas emissions.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/2014/05/15/high-speed-rails-cut-fuel-usage/9112953/>

Waterloo Cedar Falls Courier - Fed task warns of climate change; Branstad pushes renewable fuels - 5/14/14 - Members of a federal task force looking at what local communities can do to prepare for climate change said they were “beginning to shape” recommendations for the Obama administration following a two-day meeting in Des Moines.

http://wfcourier.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/fed-task-warns-of-climate-change-branstad-pushes-renewable-fuels/article_969a5d3d-8800-51f6-bb89-e1bb2827db85.html

Washington Times - ISTOOK: Watch where you spit! EPA may declare it a wetland - 5/15/14 - Claiming they want to “clarify” their jurisdiction under the 1972 Clean Water Act, the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have given the public until July 21 to comment on proposed new regulations to expand their power, by adding small, temporary and seasonal flows of water.

Like places where somebody has spit. Or could spit in the future. And of course mud puddles. Might kids splashing in a puddle become a federal offense?

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2014/may/14/istook-watch-where-you-spit-epa-may-declare-it-a-w/#ixzz31oCEWHgO>

Springfield News-Leader - Letter: Don't weaken emission rules - 5/15/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency is releasing a proposal next month that will establish the first-ever carbon emissions standards for existing power plants. In advance of this release, Missouri lawmakers have introduced SCR 40, which would allow Missouri to weaken the standards on a state level.

<http://www.news-leader.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/05/14/letter-weaken-emission-rules/9098479/>

Agri-Pulse - Democrat Senators push for new RFS and tax credits for biodiesel - 5/15/14 - Biodiesel producers joined a group of Democrat senators at a press conference Wednesday, calling for Congress to restore the biodiesel tax incentive and for the EPA and the Obama administration to rethink its plan to reduce mandated biofuel use under the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS).

<http://www.agri-pulse.com/Democrat-Senators-push-for-new-RFS-and-tax-credits-for-biodiesel-5-15-2014.asp>

BringMeTheNews.com - Senators want more U.S support for biodiesel; say 1,500 Minnesota jobs at stake - 5/15/14 - Minnesota's U.S. Senators want Washington to do more for the biodiesel industry, saying a failure to support it could cost the state as many as 1,500 jobs.

The Associated Press reports Al Franken and Amy Klobuchar are among a half-dozen Democrats calling on the Obama administration to reconsider a proposal that would scale back the amount of biodiesel that refineries are required to blend into their fuel.

<http://www.bringmethenews.com/2014/05/14/senators-want-more-u-s-support-for-biodiesel-say-1500-minnesota-jobs-at-stake/>

Associated Press - Wyoming governor says he might be wrong on climate - 5/15/14 - Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, a climate-science skeptic from the nation's top coal-producing state, said he could be wrong about the causes of global warming but argued for developing cleaner technology to burn coal rather than trying to eliminate its use. In a speech Wednesday, the Republican governor reaffirmed he has doubts about research showing humans are causing climate change.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2014/05/15/5025581/wyoming-governor-says-he-might.html#storylink=cpy>

Des Moines Register - Market solutions are way to deal with climate - 5/15/14 - Kudos to Iowa's state and local governments and agencies for working to lower Iowa's greenhouse gas emissions. The national climate change assessment report emphasized how vulnerable Iowa is to climate change's serious effects.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/readers/2014/05/15/market-solutions-way-deal-climate/9111421/>

ABC News - The government amends its environmental law - 5/15/14 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a proposal Thursday to reduce oil refinery pollution that if adopted would mark the first change to the industry's emission standards in nearly two decades. The move is part of a consent decree that resolved a lawsuit filed by nonprofit environmental attorneys with Earthjustice and the Environmental Integrity Project on behalf of people directly affected by emissions from refineries in Louisiana, Texas and California.

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/epa-proposes-refinery-emission-rules-23733072>

Reuters - Biofuel groups take aim at EPA methods in U.S. blending quota cuts - 5/15/14 - Nearly three dozen advanced biofuel companies including DuPont and Spain's Abengoa appealed to President Barack Obama on Thursday to rethink the methodology for setting U.S. biofuel blending quotas. In their letter, a copy of which was seen by Reuters, 33 suppliers of "advanced" biofuels such as lower-carbon ethanol made from corn stovers, said the proposed cuts "are too aggressive" and said the final rule should increase the volumes.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/05/15/epa-rvo-final-rule-idUSL1N0O114720140515>

De Smog Blog - Pressure Grows on EPA to Regulate Toxic Air Pollution from Oil and Gas Industry - 5/15/14 - On Tuesday, 64 environmental groups, representing over 1 million members and supporters, submitted a legal petition to the Environmental Protection Agency, calling on the federal government to more closely regulate toxic air pollution from oil and gas drilling sites.

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2014/05/14/pressure-grows-epa-regulate-toxic-air-pollution-oil-and-gas-industry>

Inside EPA - Despite EPA Vows, Industry Braces For Cooling Water Rule's ESA Provisions - 5/15/14 - EPA's long-awaited rule governing cooling water intakes at power plants and other industrial facilities, which is slated for release May 16, likely will not set a national mandate to install costly closed-cycle systems that industry opposes, but utility officials are bracing for provisions stemming from a lengthy endangered species review.

<http://cleanenergyreport.com/201405152470954/Clean-Energy-Report-Daily-News/News/despite-epa-vows-industry-braces-for-cooling-water-rules-esa-provisions/menu-id-202.html?s=dn>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

5/15/14 – Small Business Majority Roundtable, Waterloo, Iowa. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/4/14 – Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) Visit, Regional Office. Contact: Deandre Singletary, 7373

6/5/14 – Incident Command System Training, Regional Office. Contact: Cecilia Tapia, 7733

6/12/14 – Joint R6/R7 COOP Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Chris Taylor, 7373

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

DRA:

5/20-21/14 – Budget Planning Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

6/24-25/14 – Four State Directors Meeting, Nebraska City, Neb. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551

7/21-22/14 – Budget Forum, Washington, D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

5/14-16/2014– Recognition of Washington University’s Food Recovery Efforts, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Jim Callier, 7646.

5/19-23/2014 – Participating National Corrective Action Lean Event for Corrective Measures Study (CMS) phase, Washington, DC. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

5/15/14 – Trailnet, St. Louis, Mo. For EJ Grant Site Visit Contact: B. Corazzin, 77429

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

9/29-30/14 - Healthy Schools Outreach, Missouri School Plant Managers' Association Conference, Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Kathleen Fenton, 7874 and Harry Diesel, 7382

SUPR

None

WWPD

5/13-16/14 – National Association of Clean Water Agencies Pretreatment Conference, Minneapolis, Min. Contact: Paul Marshall, 7419
